



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

“ up, some of them were melted ; others snapped in  
 “ funder ; others had their hafts burnt ; others their  
 “ sheaths either finged or burnt ; others not.” From  
 all which circumstances, duly considered, I think no-  
 thing certain in favour of cold fusion can be fairly  
 drawn.

---

XXXI. *An Account of a Meteor seen at  
 Shefford, in Berkshire, on Saturday, Octo-  
 ber 20th, 1759 ; with some Observations  
 on the Weather of the preceding Winter :  
 In a Letter to Thomas Birch, D. D. Sec.  
 R. S. from Richard Forster, M. A. Rec-  
 tor of Shefford.*

Reverend. Sir,      Shefford, Octob. 31, 1759.

Read Nov. 8,  
 1759.

**O**N Saturday the 20th instant, about  
 Six in the evening, a ball of fire  
 fell nearly east from this place. I did not see it my-  
 self. My servant (who is a very sober, honest fel-  
 low) says it was nearly of the same size with the  
 moon, and full as bright as she ever shines : its mo-  
 tion was very swift, and, as far as he could judge  
 (for it was out in a moment) quite downright, i. e.  
 perpendicular to the horizon.

And now my hand is in, I cannot forbear acquaint-  
 ing you with an observation I have made, which bids  
 fair to overfet a maxim pretty strongly established in  
 the world, as not being only believed and depended  
 on by the vulgar and middling people, but mentioned

as such, I think, by several authors. In short, the maxim is this; viz. that a plentiful year of mast is an infallible prognostic of an hard or severe winter. Now, it happened last year, that provisions of this sort were as plentiful as ever was known; the trees and hedges being loaded in such a manner, as to bend and break under the pressure of their own weight: and yet the winter was the mildest, perhaps, that ever happened in this country: and accordingly not one quarter of nature's store was consumed. We had no ice, but once, and that not the thickness of an half crown, which did not continue 24 hours. I see by Cuff's tables, published in a monthly paper, that, in London, the thermometer was never below 32; and so low as this but twice, and then only by starts. I had ranunculus's in full bloom from the middle of December to the middle of February, and they not sheltered, but by a wall north, 25° east. In the middle of January, I had self-sowed marigolds and violets in bloom. Jan. 15, the bees roared, and were as busy as they are in the height of the working season: and Jan. 18, the birds sung as cheerfully as they generally do in May.

It seems probable to me, that the great abundance of berries and wild fruits (by which I mean mast) is intirely owing to a very backward spring; for, when the blossoms do not open till pretty late in May, they are secure from those inclement blasts, which, when they unfold themselves sooner, do pinch and blight the greatest part of them. I am,

Reverend Sir,  
Your affectionate brother,  
and most obliged humble servant,  
Richard Forster.  
XXXII. *Ar*